(d) whether Government have requested the Karnataka Government to exclude the proposed areas and all other areas held by KIOCL from the final notification of the Kudremukh National Park?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As per the report prepared by Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, mining of fresh areas at Gangdikal and Nellibeedu would result in more devastation of the landscape and biodiversity of Kudremukh and would be totally incompatible with the existence of a National Park in the region. The Report has been prepared by Prof. R. Sukumar, Prof. P.P. Majumdar, Dr. M. Sekhar and Dr. P.V. Sivapullaiah of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore with expert inputs from Dr. K. Ullas Karanth, Director, Centre for Wildlife Studies, Bangalore; Dr. Mewa Singh, Mysore University, Dr. C.P. Shaji, Kerala Forest Research Institute; and Shri Surya Rao Addoor, Mangalore University.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) No Sir. The Ministry had requested the State Government to complete the process of final notification of the National Park as per the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 only.

Amendment of FCA for Coffee Cultivation in Andhra Pradesh

2779. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from the Andhra Pradesh Government for allowing its farmers to grow coffee in the State;

(b) if so, when such request was received in the Ministry;

(c) the action taken thereon; and

(d) whether there is any proposal before the Ministry to bring in an amendment to the Forest Act, 1980, for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal for diversion of 80,000 hectares of forest land for coffee plantation in Narsipatnam, Paderie and Visakhapatnam Forest Divisions of Andhra Pradesh has been received in February, 2001. As per the provisions of the Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980 plantation of coffee has been defined as non-forestry activity. As such, diversion of such large

forest area for coffee plantation is against the interest of maintaining biodiversity and the environmental attributes of the forest. It will also have an adverse impact on the rights of the local people.

(d) No, Sir.

Environment clearance to Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Project

2780. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Project is pending for clearance before an Expert Committee of the Ministry of Environment and Forests;

(b) if so, the details of the Project and since when, it has been pending; and

(c) by when, it is expected to be accorded clearance?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Central Government has since accorded environment clearance to the Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Project on 8.8.2001.

Pollution by CNG vehicles

†2781. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pollution created by CNG vehicles can cause some physical diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to deal with the problem?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No conclusive data are available in this regard.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.